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## The Chase of An Aeroplane

—  
And What Resulted  
Therefrom.

By AGNES G. BROGAN

When the house that had been building opposite where Madge Carlton lived was finished, the refuse removed and the grounds had been leveled and sodded Madge looked upon the place with envy. The house was as dainty as a Swiss cottage. On the grounds here and there were little clumps of evergreens, while the whole was surrounded by a hedge.

"I'll bet that house," said Madge to herself, "was built by an artistic architect and the grounds were laid out by a landscape gardener."

Madge had a taste for pretty places, and the burden of her desires was to be mistress of one. The house opposite suited her exactly.

The next passion to covetousness that took possession of Madge Carlton was curiosity. Who would occupy it

when finished? Would it be an old woman living alone, with no one to comfort her? Would it be a middle aged couple with many small children? Would there be an unmarried man in the family, and would he be—nice? That was the womanly way of expressing it. It was not: Would he be heroic? Would he be manly? Would he be honorable? No; it was not any of these alone, but all in one, and that one was expressed in the word nice. She hoped there would be a single man in the new house, that he would be nice, and on these hopes rested a third. We shall see whether or not this third hope was gratified.

One morning large posters decorated the town where Madge lived announcing that an exhibition would be given by an aeronaut. Every member of her family except Madge was on tiptoe of excitement to see the performance. On the morning of its occurrence she was sitting on the porch. She was looking at the new house opposite which was now occupied. From it she turned her gaze upon the throng who passed continuously on their way to the city pleasure grounds, where the famous bird man was due to arrive in his wonderful aeroplane, and to give there his exhibition. Her own family had gone long ago, and Madge had shaken her head in decided refusal at her brother's invitation to join them.

"No, thank you," she answered. "I wouldn't walk as far as the corner on a hot day like this to see all the aeroplanes in the world. This cool veranda suits me much better."

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She rocked back and forth now, enjoying the light breeze which softly flapped the awnings, her little bare arms clasped high above her head. The last footfall died away, and the shady avenue was unusually silent, when presently there came from out the sky a loud humming noise as of a giant bee. Nearer it drew—still nearer, echoing and resounding in the stillness, until at length, pellmell from verandas and doorways, people ran flocking into the street:

"It is coming," they called to each other; "it is coming; it is here."

Madge leaned forward excitedly.

High across the cloudless blue, with great outstretched wings like some monstrous bird, there rushed a dark object. Onward it went, straight as an arrow, never swerving from its course, never ceasing in its mad flight until screening trees hid it from view of the watchers.

Wildly the crowd gave chase, hoping to get another glimpse in the next clearing of this wondrous, whirring thing.

Without an instant's hesitation Madge, who had scorned her brother's

(Concluded on last page.)

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